VII

EARLY DAYS AT THE LYCEUM

IT is humiliating to me to confess that I have not the faintest recollection of " Brothers," the play by Coghlan, in which 1 see by the evidence of an old play-bill that I made my first appearance under Mr. Hare's management. I remember another play by Coghlan, in which Henry Kemble made one of his early appearances in the part of a butler, and how funny he was, even in those days, in a struggle to get rid of a pet monkey—a " property " monkey made of brown wool with no " devil" in it, except that supplied by the comedian's imagination. We trusted to our acting, not to real monkeys and real dogs to bring us through, and when the acting was Henry Kemble's, it was good enough to rely upon!

Charles Coghlan seems to have been consistently unlucky. Yet lie was. a good actor and a brilliant man. I always enjoyed Ms companionship ; found him a pleasant, natural fellow, absorbed in Ms work, and not at all the "dangerous '* man that some people represented him.

Within less than a month from the date of the production of "Brothers/* "New Men and Old Acres " was put into the Court bill. It was not a new play, but the pubic at once began to crowd to see it, and I have heard that it brought Mr. Hare £30,000. My part, Lilian Vavasour, had been played in the original production by Mrs. Kendal, but it had been written for me by Tom Taylor when I was at